IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

PAUL DAVIS 206 N. Main St. Telford, PA 18969

CIVIL ACTION

Plaintiff,

DOCKET NO.:

v.

LUCIFER FURNACES, INC. 2048 Bunnell Rd. Warrington, PA 18976

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Defendant.

CIVIL ACTION COMPLAINT

Paul Davis (hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiff," unless indicated otherwise), by and through his undersigned counsel, hereby avers as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. This action has been initiated by Plaintiff against Lucifer Furnaces, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "Defendant") for violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended ("ADA" - 42 USC §§ 12101 et. seq.) and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act ("PHRA"). Plaintiff asserts, inter alia, that he was unlawfully terminated from Defendant. As a direct consequence of Defendant's unlawful actions, Plaintiff seeks damages as set forth herein.

¹ Plaintiff's claims under the PHRA are referenced herein for notice purposes. He is required to wait 1 full year before initiating a lawsuit from date of dual-filing with the EEOC. Plaintiff must however file his lawsuit in advance of same because of the date of issuance of his federal right-to-sue-letter under the ADA. Plaintiff's PHRA claims however will mirror identically his federal claims under the ADA with the exception of including Larry Jones as an individual Defendant under the PHRA.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 2. This Court has original subject matter jurisdiction over the instant action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§1331 and 1343(a)(4) because it arises under laws of the United States and seeks redress for violations of civil rights under the ADA.
- 3. This Court may properly maintain personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant's contacts with this state and this judicial district are sufficient for the exercise of jurisdiction in order to comply with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice, satisfying the standard set forth by the United States Supreme Court in International Shoe Co. v. Washington, 326 U.S. 310 (1945) and its progeny.
- 4. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391(b)(1) and (b)(2), venue is properly laid in this district because all of the acts and/or omissions giving rise to the claims set forth herein occurred in this judicial district.
- 5. Plaintiff filed a Charge of discrimination and retaliation with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC") and also dual-filed said charge with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission ("PHRC"). Plaintiff has properly exhausted his administrative proceedings before initiating this action by timely filing and dual-filing his Charge with the EEOC and PHRC, and by filing the instant lawsuit within 90 days of receiving a right-to-sue letter from the EEOC.

PARTIES

- 6. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein in their entirety as if set forth in full.
 - 7. Plaintiff is an adult individual, with an address as set forth in the caption.

- 8. Defendant is a private company located at the above-captioned address that manufactures heat treating furnaces and industrial ovens.
- 9. At all times relevant herein, Defendant acted by and through its agents, servants and/or employees, each of whom acted at all times relevant herein in the course and scope of their employment with and for Defendant.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

- 10. The averments of the foregoing paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as if set forth fully herein.
 - 11. Plaintiff was employed with Defendant for approximately 1.5 years as a welder.
- 12. During his employment with Defendant, Plaintiff was primarily supervised by the owner of Defendant, Larry Jones (*hereinafter* "Mr. Jones").
- 13. Plaintiff suffers from qualifying disabilities under the ADA, including but not limited to alcohol-related dependency issues, liver disease, depression, and anxiety.
- 14. Plaintiff's aforesaid health conditions, at times, limits his ability to perform some daily life activities, including but not limited to focusing, working, sleeping, and engaging in social interaction.
- 15. On or about February 12, 2018, Plaintiff's physician recommended that he seek in-patient treatment for alcoholism and liver disease at Penn Foundation (a rehabilitation facility) for thirty (30) days.
- 16. On or about February 13, 2018, Plaintiff informed Mr. Jones of his physician's aforesaid recommendation and of his intention to take medical leave in the near further so that he could seek in-patient treatment at Penn Foundation.

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- 17. On or about February 14, 2018, Plaintiff underwent an evaluation at Penn Foundation and made arrangements to undergo in-patient treatment for thirty days commencing on February 19, 2018.
- 18. The next day, February 15, 2018, Plaintiff informed Mr. Jones that he was scheduled to commence in-patient treatment at Penn Foundation on February 19, 2018 and would need an approximate 30-day medical leave of absence to care for and treat for his aforesaid disabilities (a reasonable accommodation under the ADA).
- 19. Several hours after requesting a 30-day medical leave of absence to undergo treatment related to his aforesaid disabilities, Plaintiff was approached by Mr. Jones and handed a document signed by him [Mr. Jones] stating as follows:

On 2/15/18 Paul Davis advised Larry Jones that he would be voluntarily leaving Lucifer Furnaces for personal reasons as of the end of the work day 2/16/18. He indicated this would be for 30 days.

This letter advises Paul Davis that his leaving does not guarantee that his position as a welder at the company will be available if he requested to return. In addition, all benefits including Medical, Dental, Life/Short Term disability insurance offered by Lucifer Furnaces will be terminated as of 2/28/18 and vacation days forfeited.

- 20. Plaintiff disagreed with this letter and reiterated to Mr. Jones that he was not voluntarily leaving Defendant but that he needed a 30-day medical leave of absence for his aforementioned health conditions, to which Mr. Jones responded "it's the same thing."
- 21. Concerned that Defendant was violating the ADA and refusing to provide him a reasonable accommodation, Plaintiff asked to meet with Mr. Jones and his wife, Lucy Jones ("Mrs. Jones") to resolve the issue.
- 22. During his meeting with Mr. Jones and Mrs. Jones on February 15, 2018, Plaintiff again reiterated that he was not "voluntarily leaving" Defendant for "personal reasons" but rather

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had requested a 30-day medical leave of absence to undergo treatment at Penn Foundation for his disabilities (discussed *supra*).

- 23. Furthermore, in his meeting with Mr. and Mrs. Jones on February 15, 2018, Plaintiff opposed the representations made in Defendant's February 15, 2018 letter, as he believed they were illegal and in violation of the ADA. Plaintiff even questioned whether Defendant had shown the aforesaid letter to an attorney before presenting it to him.
- 24. Following his meeting with Mr. and Mr. Jones on February 15, 2018, Plaintiff worked the remainder of the day and returned to work on February 16, 2018.
- 25. After reporting to work on February 16, 2018, Plaintiff was informed by Mr. Jones that he was being terminated from his employment with Defendant because Plaintiff had threatened him with a lawyer and was insubordinate which is completely false and pretextual.
- 26. On February 24, 2018, Plaintiff received at letter dated February 20, 2018 outlining the purported reasons for Plaintiff's termination wherein Mr. Jones alleges that Plaintiff (1) had informed Defendant that he would be "leaving for personal reasons which would have been considered a voluntary quit"; (2) asked during their meeting on February 15, 2018 if he was being fired (to which he was allegedly told he was not being fired); (3) presented a paper with the name of a lawyer and then started to leave the room; and (4) refused to return to the room or respond when Mr. Jones repeatedly called his name.
 - 27. The aforesaid allegations are completely false:
 - 1. Plaintiff never informed Defendant that he was quitting his employment or that he was voluntarily leaving his employment with Defendant for "personal reasons." At all times, Plaintiff was very candid with Mr. Jones and specifically told him on multiple occasions

- that he was not voluntarily leaving his employment with Defendant but had only requested a 30-day medical leave of absence to care for and treat for his aforesaid disabilities;
- 2. Mr. Jones admitted in Mr. Davis' unemployment hearing that he had been informed of Mr. Davis' health conditions and need for medical leave in advance of his separation yet Mr. Jones still continued to label Mr. Davis' request for medical leave as a "voluntary quit" for "personal reasons" in the aforesaid termination letter;
- 3. Mr. Davis only presented Mr. Jones with information pertaining to a lawyer after he was informed of his termination, not during the aforesaid February 15, 2018 meeting. Furthermore, Mr. Davis did this because he believed his termination was unlawful under the ADA; and
- 4. Mr. Davis walked out of the February 15, 2018 meeting because the meeting was over and Mr. Jones never called Mr. Davis' name after he left the room.
- 28. Plaintiff believes and therefore avers that Defendant refused to accommodate him and ultimately terminated his employment because of his actual and/or perceived disabilities, his requested accommodations, and/or his complaints of discrimination.

First Cause of Action <u>Violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act, as Amended ("ADAAA")</u> ([1] Actual/Perceived Disability Discrimination; [2] Retaliation; [3] Failure to Accommodate)

- 29. The averments of the foregoing paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as if set forth fully herein.
 - 30. Plaintiff was terminated by Defendant because of his: (1) known and/or perceived

health conditions; (2) requests for accommodations; and/or (3) his complaints of discrimination.

- 31. Defendant also refused to accommodate Plaintiff's request for a 30-day medical leave of absence to care for and treat for his health condition, treated his need for a 30-day medical leave as a voluntary separation, and represented to Plaintiff that it would not hold his job open for 30 days (while he was in treatment).
- 32. Plaintiff believes and therefore avers that Defendant failed to accommodate him and terminated his employment in violation of the ADAAA.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays that this Court enter an Order providing that:

- A. Defendant is to be prohibited from continuing to maintain its illegal policy, practice or custom of discriminating/retaliating against employees and are to be ordered to promulgate an effective policy against such unlawful acts and to adhere thereto;
- B. Defendant is to compensate Plaintiff, reimburse Plaintiff and make Plaintiff whole for any and all pay and benefits Plaintiff would have received had it not been for Defendant's illegal actions, including but not limited to past lost earnings, future lost earnings, salary, pay increases, bonuses, medical and other benefits, training, promotions, pension, and seniority. Plaintiff should be accorded those benefits illegally withheld from the date he first suffered retaliation/discrimination at the hands of Defendant until the date of verdict;
- C. Plaintiff is to be awarded punitive damages, as permitted by applicable law(s) alleged asserted herein, in an amount believed by the Court or trier of fact to be appropriate to punish Defendant for its willful, deliberate, malicious and outrageous conduct and to deter Defendant or other employers from engaging in such misconduct in the future;
- D. Plaintiff is to be accorded any and all other equitable and legal relief as the Court deems just, proper and appropriate including for emotional distress;

- E. Plaintiff is to be awarded the costs and expenses of this action and reasonable legal fees as provided by applicable federal and state law;
- F. Any verdict in favor of Plaintiff is to be molded by the Court to maximize the financial recovery available to Plaintiff in light of the caps on certain damages set forth in applicable federal law; and
- G. Plaintiff's claims are to receive a trial by jury to the extent allowed by applicable law. Plaintiff has also endorsed this demand on the caption of this Complaint in accordance with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 38(b).

Respectfully submitted,

KARPF, KARPF & CERUTTI, P.C.

By:

Ari R. Karpf, Esq. 3331 Street Road

Two Greenwood Square

Building 2, Ste. 128

Bensalem, PA 19020

(215) 639-0801

Dated: July 23, 2018

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

Paul Davis

CIVIL ACTION

v.		;				
Lucifer Furnaces, Inc.		NO.				
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SELECT ONE OF THE F	OLLOWING CA	SE MANAGI	EMENT TRACKS:			
(a) Habeas Corpus - Cascs brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 through § 2255.						
(b) Social Security - Cases and Human Services de	requesting review nying plaintiff Soc	of a decision (of the Secretary of Health enefits.	()		
(c) Arbitration - Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2.						
(d) Asbestos – Cases involvexposure to asbestos.	ing claims for pers	sonal injury or	r property damage from	()		
(e) Special Management — commonly referred to at the court. (See reverse management cases.)	s complex and that	need special (or intense management by	()		
f) Standard Management -	- Cases that do not	fall into any o	one of the other tracks.	(X)		
7/23/2018		>	DE 21/200			
7/23/2018	Attorney-at-	law	Plaintiff Attorney for			
(215) 639-0801	(215) 639-497		akarpf@karpf-law.com			
Celephone	FAX Numb		E-Mail Address			

(Clv. 660) 10/02

Case 2:18-cv-03066-CMR Document 1 Filed 07/23/18 Page 10 of 11 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

DESIGNATION FORM

(to be used by counsel or pro se plaintiff to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate calendar)

Address of Plaintiff: 206 N. Main Street, Telford, PA 18969							
Address of Defendant: 2048 Bunnell Road, Warrington, PA 18976							
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: Defendant's place of business	_						
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:							
Case Number: Judge: Date Terminated:	-						
Civil cases are deemed related when Yes is answered to any of the following questions:							
1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year Yes No X previously terminated action in this court?							
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit yes No X pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?							
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action of this court?							
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights Yes No X							
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is / is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as noted above.							
DATE: 7/23/2018 ARK2484 / 91538 Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)	~						
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CIVII.: (Place a √ in one category only)							
A. Federal Question Cases: B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:							
1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts 2. FELA 1. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts 2. Airplane Personal Injury							
3. Jones Act-Personal Injury 3. Assault, Defamation 4. Antitrust 4. Marine Personal Injury							
5. Patent 5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury 6. Labor-Management Relations 6. Other Personal Injury (Please specify):							
▼ 7. Civil Rights	_						
9. Securities Act(s) Cases 9. All other Diversity Cases							
10. Social Security Review Cases (Please specify): 11. All other Federal Question Cases	_						
(Please specify):							
ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION							
(The effect of this certification is to remove the case from eligibility for arbitration.)							
I, Ari R. Karpf , counsel of record or pro se plaintiff, do hereby certify:							
Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, § 3(c) (2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs:							
Relief other than monetary damages is sought.							
DATE: 7/23/2018 ARK2484 / 91538 Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)	_						

JS 44 (Rev. 06/17)

Print

Save As...

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the

purpose of initiating the civil do	ocket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCT	TONS ON NEXT PAGE O	OF THIS FORM.)			
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDANT			
DAVIS, PAUL			LUCIFER FURN	IACES, INC		
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Bucks (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)			County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Bucks (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.			
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, A Karpf, Karpf & Cerutti, I Suite 128, Bensalem, PA		l, Two Greenwood	Attorneys Af Know			
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in Oi	ne Box Only)			(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintif	
1 U.S. Government X 3 Federal Question Plaintiff (U.S. Government Not a Party)		(For Diversity Cases Only) PTF DEF Citizen of This State 1 1 Incorporated or Principal Place 4 4 of Business In This State				
2 U.S. Government 4 Diversity Defendant 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)		p of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State	2 2 Incorporated and Proof Business In		
20101010101			Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	3 3 Foreign Nation	6 6	
IV. NATURE OF SUIT					of Suit Code Descriptions.	
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110 Insurance 120 Marine 130 Miller Act 140 Negotiable Instrument 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment 151 Medicare Act 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits 190 Other Contract 195 Contract Product Liability 196 Franchise REAL PROPERTY 210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability 290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY 310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & Slander 330 Federal Employers' Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury 362 Personal Injury Medical Malpractice CIVIL RIGHES 440 Other Civil Rights 442 Employment 443 Housing/ Accommodations 445 Arner. w/Disabilities - Employment 0 446 Arner. w/Disabilities -	PERSONAL INJUR 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability Product Liability Personal Injury - Product Liability Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPER 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage Product Liability PRISONER PETETOR Habeas Corpus: 463 Alien Detainee 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence 530 General 535 Death Penalty Other: 540 Mandamus & Oth	of Property 21 USC 88 Of Froperty 21 USC 88 Of Four Property 21 USC 88 Of Four Labor Standards Act	28 USC 157 PROPERTYRIGHTS 0 820 Copyrights 0 830 Patent 0 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application 0 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY 1 861 HIA (1395ff) 0 862 Black Lung (923) 1 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) 0 864 SSID Title XVI 1 865 RSI (405(g)) PROPERAL TAX SUITS 0 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) 0 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	and 375 False Claims Act 375 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) 400 State Reapportionment 410 Antitrust 430 Banks and Banking 450 Commerce 460 Deportation 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations 480 Consumer Credit 490 Cable/Sat TV 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange 890 Other Statutory Actions 891 Agricultural Acts 893 Environmental Matters 895 Freedom of Information Act 896 Arbitration 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes	
V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" i. X1 Original 0 2 Re		550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement Remanded from	0 4 Reinstated or ' 5 Tran	nsferred from 0 6 Multidis		
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VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	ON ADA (42USC121 Brief description of ca	.01)	are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional s			
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:		IS A CLASS ACTION	N DEMAND \$	CHECK YES only JURY DEMANI	y if demanded in complaint: Yes 'No	
VIII. RELATED CASI IF ANY	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE	~	DOCKET NUMBER		
DATE 7/23/2018		SIGNATURE OF AT	ORNEY OF RECORD			
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		- ()				
RECEIPT# Al	MOUNT	APPLYING IFP	JUDGE	MAG. JU	DGE	

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